

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 AGR-20 OMB-01 IO-13

DPW-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /152 W

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P R 151211Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2602

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSMATCHAI

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8509

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 8296

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROJECTION OF THE RICE SITUATION IN
PHNOM PENH COVERING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 9 THRU AUGUST
21, 1973.

	8/9	8/10	8/11	8/12
BEGINNING STOCK	25,615.2	25,044.1	25,942.7	25,189.2
ROUTE 5	-	159.8	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25,615.2	26,642.1	25,942.7	25,189.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	563.3	683.1	753.1	-
BALANCE	25,051.9	25,959.0	25,189.6	25,189.2

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	8/13	8/14	8/15	8/16
LESS ADJUSTMENT	7.8	16.3	.4	-
BALANCE	25,044.1	25,942.7	25,189.2	25,189.2

BEGINNING STOCK	25,189.2	25,901.6	25,187.0	24,667.0
ROUTE 5	1,353	-	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	26,542.2	25,901.6	25,187.0	24,667.0
LESS DISTRIBUTION	635.3	714.6	520	520
BALANCE	25,906.9	25,187.0	24,667.0	24,147.0
LESS ADJUSTMENT	5.3	-	-	-
BALANCE	25,901.6	25,187.0	24,667.0	24,147.0

	8/17	8/18	8/19	8/20
BEGINNING STOCK	24,147.0	23,927.0	23,927.0	22,887.0
ROUTE 5	300	-	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	24,447.0	23,927.0	23,927.0	22,887.0
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	520	520	520
BALANCE	23,927.0	23,407.0	22,887.0	22,367.0

	8/21
BEGINNING STOCK	22,367.0
49753 5	300
TOTAL AVAILABLE	22,667.0
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520
BALANCE	22,147.0 - 42.6 DAYS

2. STOCK POSITION. AS OF AUGUST 15 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 24,667 M/T OF RICE ON HAND IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES OR APPROXIMATELY 47 DAYS SUPPLY. THIS AMOUNT COUPLED WITH THE 10,000 M/T OF RICE THAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FROM THAILAND WILL MEET MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS UNTIL MID-OCTOBER. A SEPARATE MESSAGE FOLLOWS IN RICE PROJECTIONS.

3. ROUTE 5. TWO CONVOYS ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH FROM BATTAMBANG SINCE THE LAST REPORT, THE FIRST ON AUGUST 10 WITH 1,598 M/T AND A SECOND ON AUGUST 13 WITH 1,353 M/T. THESE LAST TWO CONVOYS CARRIED MOST OF SORAPA'S AND SATRAR'S REMAINING STOCKS IN BATTAMBANG. ROUTE 5 REMAINS OPEN, HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THAT ONLY RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF RICE WILL BE BROUGHT TO PHNOM PENH IN THE FUTURE UNLESS SORAPA AND SATRAR ARE ABLE TO INCREASE PURCHASES OF RICE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN BATTAMBANG. ESTIMATES OF THE AMOUNT OF SURPLUS
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RICE REMAINING IN BATTAMBANG VARY, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS AS THOUGH 6-8,000 M/T COULD BE SPRAED WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING STOCKS NEEDED FOR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. THE ABILITY OF SORAPA AND SATRAR TO PURCHASE MORE RICE IN BATTAMBANG, HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE GOVERNOR OF BATTAMBANG IS WILLING TO COOPERATE

IN PRESSURING MERCHANTS TO SELL. WE PLAN TO URGE LON NOL TO AGAIN INTERVENE WITH THE GOVERNOR. WE ARE PROJECTING ONLY 300 M/T TO ARRIVE ON EACH OF THE NEXT TWO CONVOYS.

4. THAI RICE. LY KIM HENG HAS ARRANGED FOR TWO VESSELS TO LOAD THE FIRST 5,000 M/T OF THAI RICE, STARTING IN BANGKOK ON AUGUST 16 AND 17,

RESPECTIVELY. THE FIRST SHIP IS TO SAIL DIRECTLY TO PHNOM PENH WITH APPROXIMATELY 1,500 M/T AND SECOND WILL DISCHARGE 3,500 M/T IN KOMPONG

SOM. PART OF THE RICE UNLOADED IN KOMPONG SOM WILL BE LEFT IN STOCK FOR THE MARITIME PROVINCES AND THE BALANCE WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO PHNOM PENH.

FINAL DETAILS ARE NOW BEING COMPLETED FOR THE PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT OF THE SECOND 5,000 M/T OF BROKENS. LY KIM HENG PLANS TO RETURN BANGKOK NEXT WEEK TO COMPLETE SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS.

5. RICE DISTRIBUTION. RICE DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES TO CLIMB AND FOR THE PAST TEN-DAY PERIOD AVERAGED 515 M/T PER DAY WHICH IS STILL WITHIN THE PROJECTED 520 M/T PER DAY LEVEL. WE CONTINUE TO STRESS TO THE GKR THAT RELEASES SHOULD NOT EXCEED THIS LEVEL. PART OF THE INCREASE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE STEPPED-UP AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS, HOWEVER, UNDOUBTEDLY A GENERAL UNCERTAINTY OVER THE CESSATION OF U.S. AIR SUPPORT IS ALSO REFLECTED.

6. RICE AIRLIFTED DURING THE FIRST FIVE DAYS AMOUNT TO THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF SORTIES AND METRIC TONS:

	KOMPONG THAM	SVAY RIENG	KOMPONG CHAM
8/10 GKR	1 - 2.9	1 - 3.0	7 - 50.4
AA NA	13 - 75.2	NA	
8/11 GKR	1 - 2.9	2 - 6.0	7 - 49.6
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AA NA	1 - 10.6	6 - 31.9	
8/12 GKR	1 - 2.9	1 - 3.0	7 - 48.7
AA NA	NA	9 - 48.4	
8/13 GKR	4 - 11.6	1 - 3.0	9 - 64.1
AA NA	NA	10 - 52.7	
8/14 GKR	2 - 5.8	2 - 6.0	8 - 57.5
AA NA	NA	12 - 64.3	

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, DOMESTIC AIRCRAFT WERE PLAGUED BY ENGINE TROUBLES. THUS THE HIGH RATE OF DELIVERY AT KOMPONG CHAM WAS SUSTAINED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER TWO PROVINCIAL CAPITALS.

AT SVAY RIENG, AIR AMERICA FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON WERE DISCONTINUED ON AUGUST 11 FOR LACK OF RICE. THIS PARTICULAR RICE AIRLIFT IS EXPECTED TO RESUME TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK WHEN THE GVN WILL HAVE EFFECTIVELY RELEASED THE 900 M/T REPRESENTING THE FINAL BALANCE OF THE ORIGINAL 20,000 M/T LOANED TO THE GKR. THE GKR'S RICE COMMITTEE IS ARRANGING FOR A DELEGATION TO GO TO SAIGON THIS WEEK TO WORK OUT AN

AGREEMENT ON THE REPAYMENT IN KIND OF RICE AIRLIFTED TO SVAY RIENG
LAST YEAR.

ON AUGUST 11, THE AIR AMERICAN FLEET OF TWO C-123S AND ONE C-46
STARTED TO SUPPLEMENT THE GKR'S RICE AIRLIFT FROM PHNOM PENH TO
KOMPONG CHAM. DESPITE SLIGHT INTERFERENCE FROM FANK, WHICH TRIED AT
BOTH ENDS TO COMANDEER AIR AMERICA'S AIRCRAFT TO MOVE ITS OWN PERSONNEL

AND/OR SUPPLIES, THE DUAL AIRLIFT REACHED A PEAK OF 20 SORTIES AND
121.9 M/T ON AUGUST 14. IF THE RATE CAN BE SUSTAINED A FEW MORE DAYS,
THE OBJECTIVE OF MEETING ON-GOING DAILY REQUIREMENTS WHILE BUILDING UP

A 30-DAY SUPPLY COULD BE ACHIEVED BY AUGUST 20 INSTEAD OF SEPTEMBER 1.

FOLLOWING THIS MESSAGE WE PLAN TO REDUCE THE NUMBER RICE
SITUATION REPORTS TO ONE PER WEEK STARTING NEXT MONDAY.
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Message Attributes

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